

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Meeting of Thursday, November 21, 2024
Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3:00 pm
Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison

Recognition of Guests: Mike Licari, Maria Cronley, Tucker Brown, Walt Lord, Chad Brooks, Dan Shea, Corey Harkey, Kelly Pitts, and Lim Tchoi.

Roll Call of Senators: Senate Secretary Nancy Gibson

Absent Senators: Masum Bhuiyam, Charles Gonzalez, Kristen Hershey, Heather Moran, David Rands, and Donna Short.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2024, Meeting: Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

Remarks

1. Minute of Silence, Dr. Allene Phy-Olsen

The Senate observed a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Allene Phy-Olsen, Professor Emerita of Languages and Literature (1990-2007), an accomplished author, scholar, and recipient of the 2003 Richard Hawkins Award.

2. President, Dr. Michael Licari

THEC Update: Proposed tuition increase range of 0-4% for the upcoming fiscal year, with binding range to be set at next meeting. Earlier decision timeline will benefit incoming class recruitment.

Budget Hearings: University's share approximately \$1 million, a significant increase from last year's \$100,000, as part of larger higher education funding request.

Provost Search: Strong candidate pool reported with high interest in the position. First round interviews with 8-10 semifinalists planned for January, finalists to visit in February, with decision expected by Spring Break.

3. University Provost, Dr. Maria Cronley

Enrollment: Current enrollment at 10,007, representing an 8.6% increase from previous year.

CAFÉ Initiatives: High-impact practice pathway Ambassador Program announced, with deadline extended to November 29. Optional faculty development trainings planned for January, including full spectrum learning and Green Zone Plus.

Faculty Trustee: Announced Nancy Gibson's selection as Faculty Trustee to the Board of Trustees.

4. Senate President Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison

Final Meeting: Acknowledged last senate meeting of the semester and thanked senators for their work.

Crisis Training: Announced faculty development training scheduled for January 13-17 focusing on crisis intervention, coordinated with Project Director of Crisis Intervention Team.

Faculty Trustee Selection: Clarified that while the President's email indicated Faculty Senate selected the Faculty Trustee, the selection process is actually open to all university faculty. Nancy Gibson became the Faculty Trustee representative as she was the sole nominee when the nomination period closed.

5. Vice President, Military Advisor in Residence, Retired General Walter Lord

Military Student Population: Reported 3,185 military-affiliated students (29.47% of enrollment), generating \$30-40 million in annual government revenue.

Faculty Support: Encouraged Green Zone training participation through Jasmine Linares, emphasizing importance of understanding veteran student needs and deployment cycles.

Academic Considerations: Highlighted importance of hybrid courses for GI Bill housing benefits and careful consideration of FA/FN grades due to VA benefit implications.

Q1: How can we increase course offerings at Fort Campbell given minimum class size requirements?

A1: Acknowledged need for flexibility with class size limits to maintain consistent course offerings. Administration will review requests for exceptions case by case.

Q2: What about the current class scheduling at Fort Campbell?

A2: Noted concerns about 5:15 PM start times affecting student transitions between classes. Traditional schedule of 4:45-7:15 PM and 7:30-10:00 PM preferred.

Q3: Do you receive census report data on military student attendance?

A3: Currently do not receive this data but agreed it would be valuable for tracking early attendance patterns and preventing FA/FN issues.

6. Associate Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Dr. Chad Brooks

Grant Activity: Reported \$13 million in grant expenditures across 128 active projects.

Graduate Studies: Highlighted successful marketing efforts with cost per student acquisition at \$450.

Workforce Development: Noted program growth from 90 to 1,700 students, including significant achievements in EMT training and lineman programs.

7. Faculty Chair of Study Abroad, Study Away, and International Exchange, Dr. Dan Shea

Program Updates: Announced office restructuring and new staff hire.

Student Support: Increased travel grants from \$500 to \$800 per student.

New Programs: Introduced study away initiatives, including African American Studies in Charleston and Native American Art and Literature in New Mexico.

Exchange Programs: Outlined plans to expand domestic and international exchange opportunities.

Q1: Are semester-long study away programs possible?

A1: Yes, confirmed through National Student Exchange program. Students can attend institutions across America, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Cited example of biology student studying marine biology in Alaska.

Q2: How are you tracking study away data?

A2: Expressed interest in developing comprehensive tracking system for all APSU-related student travel, while noting need to define parameters for what constitutes reportable travel.

New Business

1. APSU Curriculum Committee Report, Dr. Tyler Nolting

Course Changes: Approved 22-course deletions across departments, including accounting, culinary arts, education, engineering tech, HHP, linguistics, and Spanish graduate courses.

New Programs: Approved new graduate courses in social issues writing (508) and advanced digital writing (5800).

Program Modifications: Updated Homeland Security minor, National Security Studies BS, and leadership programs. Changes to BBA business core approved.

2. Academic Red Committee Report, Christina Chester-Fangman

Research Review: Presented findings on course caps study dating back to 1924 research, analyzing current practices across peer institutions. Examined 82 peer institutions, with detailed analysis of 21 peers and all Tennessee peers.

Data Analysis: Examined DSIR data for course caps across different pedagogies and instructional methods from 2018-19 through 2023-24. Noted MTSU's specific consideration of faculty workload for large-capacity courses.

Recommendations: Proposed assessing class size impact on student outcomes, considering faculty workload for large courses, developing department-specific guidelines, and incorporating student feedback in future assessments.

Full Report: The complete report, including peer institution feedback and references, is available on the [Documents for Review](#) page.

3. Task Force on Campus Events, Dr. Susan Cockrell

Process Review: Developed comprehensive flow chart for event scheduling and approvals.

Legal Framework: Outlined state institution requirements regarding event approvals, noting limitations on denying events while maintaining control over timing and location.

Ongoing Work: Continuing development of guidelines for evening event noise levels and emergency protocols.

4. Policy 2:068, Research Integrity and Security Policy

Legislative Requirement: Presented new policy required by Tennessee Code provision, deadline December 31, 2024.

Discussion Points: Addressed concerns regarding definition of national security interests and implementation procedures.

Vote: Motion to approve policy provisionally with commitment to review in January 2025. Motion passed with majority vote (one opposed, four abstentions).

Q1: How broad is the "national security interests" definition in paragraph three?

A1: Acknowledged definition is broad. Discussion of possibly restricting language to controlled unclassified information (CUI) and materials in future revisions.

Q2: Will approval processes be in place when policy goes live?

A2: Confirmed procedures will be implemented upon policy effective date, with detailed instructions to follow.

Q3: What happens if Faculty Senate doesn't approve the policy today?

A3: Explained policy must be in place by December 31, 2024 for legal compliance, but can be revised in January.

Adjourn: Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote